

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below in which insertions are indicated by underline, and deletions are indicated by double-brackets. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An interactive driving simulation apparatus for teaching a student operator how to operate a two-wheeled vehicle on a simulated road, wherein said apparatus ~~which~~ allows [[a]] the student operator to simulate driving a two-wheeled vehicle, wherein said apparatus is operable to display a virtual environment as a screen image on a display unit based on a real-time driving routine of a simulated vehicle by the student operator, and wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a driving route sequence and replaying the driving route sequence on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed, said driving simulation apparatus comprising:

a selector which automatically selects performance evaluation comments from a stored plurality of comments based on operator input in a simulated driving route sequence, by a driving operation of the student operator in a driving route sequence determined in advance in a running route upon the driving simulation apparatus, ~~without requiring concurrent input from an outside source other than the operator~~,
[[and]]

wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays:

a simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads, and

superimposed written text of performance evaluation comments when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit,

wherein said performance evaluation comments are determined solely on the basis of input from the student operator as interpreted by an electronic controller, and

wherein said performance evaluation comments are provided to aid the student operator in assessing current skills so that the student operator can improve his or her driving skills.

2. (Previously Presented) An interactive driving simulation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said selector selects only a scene at which an unsafe action was performed by the student operator within the simulated driving route sequence, and matches performance evaluation comments corresponding to said scene at which an unsafe action was performed to the student operator's recorded performance,

and wherein said display screen displays only the scene at which the unsafe action was performed and the performance evaluation comments.

3. (Original) An interactive driving simulation apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a speaker for reading the performance evaluation commentary aloud upon reproduction thereof on said display unit.

4. (Original) An interactive driving simulation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said display unit is operable to pause the replay and to display a still-screen image, in which the simulated operating environment and the performance evaluation commentary are simultaneously displayed thereon.

5. (Previously Presented) An interactive driving simulation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said display unit reproduces a screen image recorded during a real-time simulation at a normal replay speed or temporarily pauses the replay and displays a still-screen image at a selected driving situation obtained from the driving route sequence, and performs fast-feeding replay or skipping replay at scenes other than the selected driving situation.

6. (Original) The driving simulation apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is operable without

requiring input from any person other than the student operator during testing and replay.

7 (Currently Amended) An interactive driving simulation apparatus for teaching a student operator how to operate a two-wheeled vehicle on a simulated road ~~for allow~~[[ing]]s [[a]] the student operator to simulate driving a two-wheeled vehicle, said driving simulation apparatus comprising:

an electromechanical simulator which interacts with the student operator during performance of a driving route sequence to teach the student operator how to operate a two-wheeled vehicle on a simulated road, said electromechanical simulator comprising a support frame, a handlebar operatively connected to the support frame, a pedal mechanism operatively connected to the support frame, and a plurality of sensors for measuring student input and for generating data corresponding to a specific performance by the student operator;

a recorder which records the specific performance data;

a processor which compares the specific performance data to a set of base line performance data and which automatically selects performance evaluation comments from a stored plurality of comments based on the comparison of the specific performance data with the base line performance data without requiring concurrent input from an outside source other than the student operator, and

a display unit comprising a display screen which simultaneously displays;

a simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads, and

superimposed written text of performance evaluation comments when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit for a testing situation in which the student operator's responses fail to perform at or above a specified level;

wherein a virtual environment is displayed as a screen image on the display unit based on a real-time driving route sequence of a simulated vehicle by the student operator, and wherein said apparatus is capable of recording a specific performance of a driving routine and replaying the specific performance on said display unit after the real-time driving routine is completed,

wherein said performance evaluation comments are determined solely on the basis of input from the student operator as interpreted by an electronic controller, and

wherein said performance evaluation comments are provided to aid the student operator in assessing current skills so that the student operator can improve his or her driving skills.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The driving simulation apparatus of claim 7, wherein selected input devices of the electromechanical simulator are operable to perform a first set of functions during performance of a real-time driving route sequence by a student operator, and wherein the selected input devices are operable to perform a second set of functions which is different from the first set of functions during playback of a recorded performance.

10. (Original) The driving simulation apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a speaker for generating an audible reproduction of the selected performance evaluation comments.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of training an operator to improve driving skills for operating a two-wheeled vehicle using a driving simulator, comprising the steps of:

a) generating a prerecorded driving simulation course including a plurality of testing situations on a display screen of a driving simulator, said driving simulation course comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads;

b) recording the operator's real-time responses to a testing situation on a computer memory;

c) comparing the operator's responses to prerecorded base line data; and

d) replaying selected scenes from the simulation course on a display screen superimposed with selected written text of automatically generated performance evaluation comments from a stored plurality

of comments corresponding to the operator's recorded responses, for a testing situation in which the operator's responses fail to perform at or above a specified level, wherein said performance evaluation comments are determined solely on the basis of input from the student operator as interpreted by an electronic controller, without requiring concurrent input from an outside source other than the operator and wherein said performance evaluation comments are provided to aid the student operator in assessing current skills so that the student operator can improve his or her driving skills.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the method is performable without requiring input from any person other than the student operator during testing and replay.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of generating an audible performance evaluation commentary upon visual reproduction thereof on said display unit.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the replay is paused to display a still-screen image when the simulated operating environment and the performance evaluation commentary are simultaneously displayed thereon.

15. (Currently Amended) An interactive driving simulation apparatus for teaching a student operator how to operate a two-wheeled vehicle on a simulated road which allows ~~[[a]]~~ the student operator to simulate driving a two-wheeled vehicle, wherein

said apparatus is operable to display~~[[s]]~~ a virtual environment as a screen image on a display unit, based on a real-time performance of a driving operation of a simulated vehicle by the student operator, and

wherein said apparatus records a driving route sequence and replays the driving route sequence on said display unit after the real-time performance of a driving operation is completed,

said driving simulation apparatus comprising:

an electromechanical simulator with which the student operator interacts during the real-time performance of a driving operation, the electromechanical simulator including input devices actuated by the student operator during the real-time performance of a driving operation,

a selector which automatically selects performance evaluation comments from a stored plurality of comments based on operator input in a simulated driving route sequence, by a driving operation of the student operator in a driving route sequence determined in advance in a running route upon the driving simulation apparatus, without requiring concurrent input from an outside source other than the student operator, and

wherein the display unit comprises a screen which simultaneously displays both a simulated operating environment and superimposed written text of performance evaluation comments to the student operator when the driving route sequence is replayed on said display unit, said simulated operating environment comprising simulated city driving including two-way traffic flow and intersections with side roads,

wherein selected input devices of the input devices of the electromechanical simulator are operable to perform a first set of functions during performance of a real-time driving route sequence by a student operator, and wherein the selected input devices are operable to perform a second set of functions which is different from the first set of functions during playback of a recorded performance, and wherein said performance evaluation comments are provided to aid the student operator in assessing current skills so that the student operator can improve his or her driving skills.

16. (Previously presented) The interactive driving simulation apparatus of claim 15,

wherein the interactive driving simulator apparatus further comprises a pre-stored selection of performance evaluation comments, and

wherein the selector selects an appropriate one of the performance evaluation comments from